

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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P 100000Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 373

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: RESIGNATION OF SEIRANKAI MEMBERS

REF: FUKUOKA A-26 OF NOVEMBER 5, 1973

ALTHOUGH NOTHING HAS YET APPEARED IN LOCAL NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, NISHI NIHON SHIMBUN REPORTED IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE MAY 9 THAT TAKU YAMASAKI (FUKUOKA ONE) AND TAKESHI NODA (KUMAMOTO ONE) HAD FORMALLY RESIGNED FROM SEIRANKAI. BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF THE NAKASONE FACTION. YAMASAKI REPORTEDLY GAVE DISAGREEMENT WITH SEIRANKAI'S ATTITUDE ON JAPAN-CHINA AIR ACCORD AS REASON FOR RESIGNATION, WHILE NODA SAID GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH SEIRANKAI'S METHOD OF OPERATION PROMPTED HIM TO QUIT.

PAGE TWO RUADLTA8857 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TWO RESIGNATIONS CUT SEIRANKAI'S MEMBERSHIP TO 29; HOWEVER, NISHI NIHON SHIMBUN REPORTS HIROMI NAKAMURA (NAGASAKI TWO), TAMISUKE WATANUKI (TOYAMA ONE), AND HIDEO UTSUMI (MIYAGI TWO) ARE FIRING UP PLANS TO LEAVE SEIRANKAI. ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THERE'S NO HELP FOR THE RESIGNATIONS. WE'RE STUDYING METHODS TO INCREASE THE UNITY OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS." COMMENT: REFAIR REPORTED YAMASAKI'S LACK OF SYMPATHY WITH SEIRANKAI AND THAT HE STAYED IN ONLY OUT OF FEELING OF OBLIGATION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHINTARO ISHIHARA, HIS FRIEND AND SUPPORTER. AS SEIRANKAI

FOCUSSES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, OTHER DEFECTIONS MAY RESULT. IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN, MOST
CHARACTERIZE SEIRANKAI AS A BUNCH OF FOOLS; ON THE OTHER HAND,
SOME PEOPLE WE HAVE SPOKEN TO, PARTICULARLY YOUNGER JAPANESE,
SEE ORGANIZATION AS SINCERE (AND LAUDABLE) ATTEMPT TO SOMEHOW
RESTORE PURPOSE TO LDP AND GET AWAY FROM PETTY INTERNAL SQUABBLING.
END COMMENT
RICHARDSON

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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